



PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES ASSESSED CIVIL PENALTIES AT ENFORCEMENT HEARING

Olympia – Chair of the Public Disclosure Commission, Mike Connelly, ruled on Wednesday that six candidates running for State Representative in the 2002 primary election were in violation of state public disclosure laws.

During brief enforcement hearings held in Olympia, Connelly cited the legislative candidates for failure to file the 7-day Pre-Primary C-4 report which was due on September 10th of this year and assessed civil penalties ranging from the maximum of \$500 to a \$250 fine with \$100 suspended.

Elizabeth Clark, candidate for State Representative in Legislative District 16, was assessed a civil penalty of \$250 with \$100 suspended provided the campaign has no further violations of disclosure laws during calendar year 2002.

Greg Lemke, candidate for State Representative in Legislative District 38, was assessed a civil penalty of \$250 with \$100 suspended provided the campaign has no further violations of disclosure laws during calendar year 2002.

Erwin Salvatori, candidate for State Representative in Legislative District 15, was assessed a civil penalty of \$250 with \$100 suspended provided the campaign has no further violations of disclosure laws during calendar year 2002. Mr. Salvatori was also given 14 days to file the missing reports.

Jeff Fared, candidate for State Representative in Legislative District 48, was assessed a civil penalty of \$250 with \$100 suspended provided the campaign has no further violations of disclosure laws during calendar year 2002.

Barbara Peterson, candidate for State Representative in Legislative District 49, was assessed a civil penalty of \$250 with \$100 suspended provided the campaign has no further violations of disclosure laws during calendar year 2002.

John Potter, candidate for State Representative in Legislative District 11, was assessed the maximum civil penalty of \$500.

The case against **Michael Huisman**, candidate for State Representative in Legislative District 21, was dismissed.

Registration/Financial Reports

Connelly, in separate hearings, found three candidates running for city council positions in the City of Spokane Valley had violated the State Disclosure Act by failure to timely file disclosure reports with the Commission. **Sam Conte** was found in violation of state law and assessed \$300 for failing to file both the Candidate Registration (C-1) report and a Statement of Personal Financial Affairs (F-1).

James Olinger was assessed a civil penalty of \$150 with \$100 suspended if the missing C-1 report is filed within two weeks. **Ryan Turner** was found in violation for failing to file a Statement of Personal Financial Affairs and fined \$150 with \$100 suspended.

Candidates are required under state law to file a registration report and a Statement of Personal Financial Affairs with the Public Disclosure Commission within two weeks of becoming a candidate.

“The disclosure laws are designed to provide the public with vital information concerning the campaign finances and the personal financial interests of candidates,” Connelly said. “Compliance with the law is not optional.”

The three candidates who were issued a civil penalty had previously been sent two letters asking them to comply with the reporting requirements. A letter reminding each candidate of his or her obligation to file was sent on August 29, 2002, and a letter with an opportunity to pay a \$100 fine and forego an enforcement hearing was sent on September 18, 2002.

The **Ad Hoc Merchants Committee** in Asotin County was also found in violation of state law on Wednesday for failure to timely file a completed Political Committee Registration Statement and failure to make campaign books and records available for public inspection during the eight-day period preceding the 2001 General Election. The committee was assessed a civil penalty of \$250.

Candidates and committees found in violation at the hearings will have an opportunity to ask the full, five-member Commission to review the action taken by the Chair.